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The Gem State Guardian

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US, CAMBODIAN FORCES PARTNER FOR ANGKOR SENTINEL 16

STORY AND PHOTO BY MASTER SGT.
MARY FERGUSON

KAMPONG SPEU PROVINCE, Cambodia (March 14, 2016) -- U.S. and Cambodian forces officially opened Angkor Sentinel 2016, an annual bilateral military exercise hosted by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific. The opening ceremony occurred at the Training School for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia.

This year marks the seventh iteration of the exercise, which is designed to collectively strengthen the two countries' humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities and improve military-to-military cooperation.

"I believe the Angkor Sentinel exercise that begins today showcases some of the best kinds of things militaries accomplish for their nations and citizens," said Julie Chung, Chargé d'affaires, U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh. "Angkor Sentinel's activities will include training and exchanges covering humanitarian assistance, disaster response, first aid, engineering, explosive ordnance disposal,



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countering improvised explosive devices, transporting people and supplies, and developing leaders."

"Any country - including both Cambodia and the United States - will be a better, safer place to live with military people who are skilled in these functions," Chung said.

The two-week exercise brings together Cambodian Forces from the Royal Cambodian Army (RCA), National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine, & Explosive Remnants of War Clearance (NPMEC), and Gendarmerie Royale Khmer (GRK), with U.S. forces from U.S. Army Pacific, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 130th

Theater Engineer Brigade, 8th Military Police Brigade, 303rd Explosive Ordnance Battalion, 18th Medical Command, Asia Pacific C-IED Fusion Center (APCFC), 413th Contracting Brigade, and the Idaho Army National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Edward F. Dorman III, the commander of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, encouraged the more than 150 participants to enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to learn from each other's expertise and absorb each other's rich cultures and traditions (cont'd).



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"Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief are priorities for both of our countries, and as we operate together in this complex, ever-changing region, exercises like this one are critical to our regional stability and security," he said. "When we join together, train together, and grow together now, we ensure that we are prepared together for whatever the future may bring."

The concentrated training agenda includes intense academics, team-building events, and practical exercises intended to foster an exchange of best practices and create opportunities for the two countries' militaries to learn about each other's tactics, techniques and procedures, while strengthening relationships and building the foundation for future humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises.

Angkor Sentinel 16 marks the 6th year in a row the Idaho National Guard has participated in the event. The Idaho National Guard maintains an official partnership with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The Idaho - Cambodia partnership was established in 2009 and conducts multiple Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response-related subject matter exchanges between military



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personnel from both organizations. Each year, the Idaho National Guard, on average conducts approximately seven of these engagements, in addition to senior leadership visits and training exercises.

This year, eight medical personnel from the Idaho Army National Guard are participating in the exercise. The Idaho National Guard also maintains a permanent presence in Cambodia by stationing one of its members inside the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh as a Bilateral Affairs Officer. "A key purpose of the Idaho National Guard's partnership with

the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces is to assist the U.S. Pacific Commander in building reliable, regional partners in that part of the world," said Maj. Chris Borders, Idaho National Guard Public Affairs Officer.

Guardian

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